

----- THE FIRST ACT -----

The stage indicates the parlour of the Honnoji Temple. Golden-coloured sliding screen in front. Tasselled sliding doors to the right and left. The entrance is of big transom work.

The curtain rises with fanfare and ballyhoo.

Four waiting maids are arranging flowers in vases with flower-baskets in front.

Waiting maid A: We are expecting Lord Harunaga and I hope

our respective flower arrangements would amuse him.

B: By order of his reverence we learnt this way of flower arrangement.

C: I am afraid it's beyond our power-----

D: But together with them-----

A: We should like to amuse our lord with these arranged flowers.

B: Though far from perfect----

All: Now we are ready to show.

Voice: Harunaga-sama is coming.

Waiting maid A: Oh I see. We must inform his reverence.

The four maids: Of our lord's arrival.

Nichiwa: No, you need not do it. I will receive the lord.

(His reverence Nichiwa makes his appearance, and the waiting maids start to meet the lord following Nichiwa.)

Voices: Here come the lord.

(Music starts and Lord Harunaga appears accompanied by his page Rammaru carrying his sword. Another page Rikimaru and Sonou-no-tsubone follow. Retainers Yashiro Josuke, Nagao Yataro, and Asayama Taso come out and stop at the stage passage.)

Nichiwa: I am glad to see you, Lord Harunaga I have the honour of receiving of you in a poor-looking temple like this. I, the abbot of this temple, came here to receive you.

Harunaga: Thank you for your trouble. This place is very quiet and the white lotus flowers are at their best in the pond, dew-drops twinkling in the water grass, garden trees faintly swaying by the gentle breeze. What an interesting view it is!

Rammaru: Yes indeed! This temple is famous for its beautiful scene. I am glad it suits your fancy.

Rikimaru: The abbot of this temple had this parlour built anew hearing your reverence would visit here.

Sono-u: It would be interesting for you to hold a banquet enjoying the view of Tsukiyama, I suppose.

Josuke: Hearing that our lord would take this temple as temporary camp, I accompanied him to this temple. The name is Yashiro Josuke.

Yatara: Also I, Nagao Yataro, am here to act as escort
for Lord Harunaga.

Tazo: I, Asayama Tazo, joined the party.

Niwa: Here, Niwa Goro

Mimura: I am Mimura Jiro

Suzuki: I am Suzuki Hayata

Kusumi: I am Kusumi Yukitsugu.

Ishii: I am Ishi Heibei

Josuke: To guard our lord.

All the retainers: All of us are here.

Harunaga: Thank you for your trouble. I appreciate my
retainers' good wishes.

Nichiwa: Now, there is your chamber overthere.

All women: Come this way please.

(Music starts and Harunaga reaches the main
stage accompanied by the party. Harunaga gets
seated to the right side, Sono-u to the left,
Ranzaru to the right and the other attendants
to the left. Thereupon Kikyo secretly makes her
appearance and takes a seat to the left side.)

Harunaga: Here are well devised arranged flowers. I take
a fancy to the way of arrangement. By whom were
they presented?

Sono-u: This enonymus alata was devised by Mashiba
Hisayoshi who started for Chugoku province.
I arranged it according to his detailed instruc-
tions.

Harunaga: It is a happy idea that the euonymus alata is arranged in a horse-basin with bit-suspenders Hisayoshi is to me what wings to a dragon. Hey, Josuke, did you arranged this flower-basket?

Josuke: No, it is Mitsuhide's sister Kikyo who did it, Sir.

Harunaga: What? Where is Mitsuhide's sister Kikyo?

Kikyo: Well, here I am, Lord!

Harunaga: I prohibited Mitsuhide from coming to my presence, as you know. Why have you come here, nevertheless?

Kikyo: I beg your pardon, sir, but my brother Mitsuhide always thinks of you while placed in confinement. He hopes you would smooth your ruffled spirits and wish to be admitted to your presence. I presented this flower basket according his order. I shall be much obliged if you enter into his feelings seeing the flowers.

Sono-u: This is an elegant flower-basket, with various beautiful and fresh flowers such as bindweeds, hydrangeas etc., you see.

Harunaga: Hum! Now I will explain Mitsuhide's thought expressed by these flowers. Hisayoshi expressed his sincerity by the euonymus alata in the horse-basin that he would not forget his former days when he collected horses as a footman. On the contrary, Mitsuhide expressed his snacks of cynicism toward me by these flowers which will soon wither. It's really a foolish thing that he

should try to deceive me with his narrow thought;
Ha, ha, ha.....

Kikyo: It is awful to say, but I am afraid it is a
groundless suspicion. My brother Mitsuhide will
never have a grudge against you, Lord, however hard
he might be treated. Say, Rammaru-san, I ask you
to intercede for the lord.

Rammaru: Do you understand her, my Lord?
As she said just now, I also wish that you would
enter Mitsuhide's feelings.

Rikimaru: If you allow Mitsuhide.

Josuke: To come to see you again.

Tazo: We shall be glad / very much.

All: All of us hope it with our whole heart.

Harunaga: Well. Mitsuhide would not mind anything so long as
he is admitted to my presence. Do you say so?

Kikyo: If you smooth your ruffled spirits, he would not
have anything to say, I am sure.

Harunaga: Then out of consideration of your entreaty, I will
allow him to come here. Better call him here.

Rammaru: You accept our wishes then?

All: Many thanks for your kindness, sir.

Harunaga: Say, Sene-u, now make preparations of the banquet.

Sene-u: Certainly sir.

All the women: Well.

Jemuke: Now you had better call Mitsuhide-dono here as soon as possible before the lord's change his mind.

Kikyo: Certainly.

Nichiwa: Now, I shall see you again sir.

(Kikyo exit overthere and Nichiwa enters right side.

The banquet is prepared and the women offer services.)

Sono-u: Now the banquet is ready.

(Harunaga takes the cup.)

Harunaga: It is very interesting to have a drink seeing Mitsuhide with a disappointed look. Wait upon me.

All the women: Certainly, sir.

Harunaga: Go and bring Mitsuhide quickly.

Rikimaru: Yes, sir. (goes towards the stage passage.)

Hallo, Mitsuhide-dono, as Lord is calling you, you had better make haste.

Mitsuhide: Well.

(Music starts and Mitsuhide makes his appearance followed by Kikyo Mitsuhide steps at the stage passage and prostrates himself toward Harunaga.)

Yataro: Here comes Mitsuhide-dono.

Mitsuhide: I beg your pardon----- (raises his face)

I have not seen you since I fell under your displeasure, but now I am extremely glad to see you in excellent spirits as before.

Harunaga: Oh, it's a long time since I saw you last.

Are you so glad that you have been admitted to my presence?

Mitsuhide: Yes, sir. While I was placed in confinement, I did not know what to do as if a fish out of water.

But today I am delighted beyond measure to have been allowed to come to your presence.

Harunaga: Do you really mean it?

Mitsuhide: Yes, sir.

Harunaga: Well, I see. A dog is said to be grateful to its master and wag its tail if it is fed even for only three days, not to speak of man. You might also wag your tail if you had one, but to my regret you have none.

Mitsuhide: I am glad to be with you even though you put me down for a dog, an ox or a horse. I earnestly beg you will have a continued favour toward me.

Harunaga: Well said! I will offer a cup to you.

Mitsuhide: Eh, you will offer a cup?

Harunaga: You may come near me.

Mitsuhide: I must later say thanks to those who put in good words that I might be admitted to your presence. But in the first place I will take you at your kind word.

Harunaga: Well, I will give a cup to you now. What cup shall I give, eh?

Rammaru: Yes, sir.

(Rammaru pulls out the eponymous alata of the horse-basin and brings the pitcher before Harunaga.)

Harunaga: Mitsuhide! Here is your cup.

Mitsuhide: Eh! Are you giving me this vessel?

Harunaga: Yes. This horse-basin is suited for you.

Empty the basin at a draught like a horse!

Mitsuhide: Well. A sovereign is the best judge of his subjects. I will take the cup with many thanks.
(Mitsuhide drinks sake in the basin. Rammaru fills it.)

Harunaga: Once in China Hansui of Qi incurred his master Shuko's displeasure and was compelled to eat fodder together with a horse after having been given a hundred times of whip. Hansui pretended to be dead and escaped danger. Afterwards he came to be employed by the king of Shin and became a minister. Shuko was despatched to Shin. Hansui knew Shuko's coming and returned his grudge upon the latter by compelling him to eat fodder in a horse-basin. Mitsuhide! Your heart is just like that of Hansui, isn't it?

Mitsuhide: I beg your pardon, but it is really a groundless suspicion. How could I have a grudge against you, my Lord?

Ranmaru I shall be glad if you include Mitsuhide-dono in your taking the field.

Harunaga: Rammaru's petition is praiseworthy, but you may start for the province of Chugoku if you are ready to be under Hisayoshi's control.

Mitsuhide: Then, you will despatch me to Chugoku?

Harunaga: Go and place yourself under Hisayoshi's command. The other day Hisayoshi wanted to have a good horse, but as ill luck would have it I had no suitable one at hand, then. You shall be despatched to his camp in stead of the horse. Hey, ayone? Bridle Mitsuhide and take him to Maahiba Hisayoshi.

Mitsuhide: Then, sir, do you want to despatch me to Chugoku and place me under ~~Hisayoshi~~ Hisayoshi's command?

Harunaga: Go and run about in the field by his whip, to say nothing of command!

Mitsuhide: I am sorry that you have not yet smoothed your displeasure to me. Now things have come to this I will start for Chugoku according to your order and place myself under Hisayoshi's command.

Harunaga: All right. You are really praiseworthy. Hey, Rammaru! You have well made things smooth. You will get a reward as you like.

Rammaru: Many thanks, sir. I do not wish anything beyond my status. I shall be glad if I could have my father San-emon's former fief.

Harunaga: It's a natural wish. The fief of your father San-emon who died in the battle at the castle of Usayama, is now possessed by Mitsuhide, isn't it?

Mitsuhide: All right, sir.

Harunaga: Fall all Rammaru's wishes, as the fief is now possessed by Mitsuhide it may be difficult to meet the wishes though it was formally his father's.
Eh, Mitsuhide?

Mitsuhide: Yes----- it is natural-----

But I don't think the fief is exclusively mine.

Harunaga: Well----- I don't well understand your heart.

Hey, Nagao Yataro. Come here.

Yataro: Yes, sir.

Harunaga: I intended to give some reward to you since you surrendered. Fortunately here is the sword Hiyoshimaru. You may have it now. I hope you will start for Chugoku and render a distinguished service under Hisayoshi's command.

Yataro: I yielded to you by the good offices of Mitsuhide and I wish to get the sword Hiyoshimaru. Therefore I appreciate your kindness, but out of consideration of Mitsuhide-----.

Harunaga: Then, do you say you will not accept this sword
out of respect to Mitsuhide?

Yatara: Well-----

Harunaga: Are you against my wishes, then?

(takes the sword.)

Yatara: I beg your pardon, sir. I am ready to have
Hiyoshimaru with many thanks.

(Yatara receives the sword.)

Mitsuhide: Hiyoshimaru is the treasure of the Saito family
and I previously expressed my wishes to get the
sword. I cannot but feel envious that another
person have got it.

Harunaga: Was that so? But a sword is of no use for you.
Things for singing and dancing are suited for you.
Here is a scroll. Better use this when you hold a
scroll. Better use this when you hold a tea-
meeting or poetry-party. There! You may have this,
Mitsuhide.

Asayama: You had better receive the lord's present.

(Asayama bring the scroll-box)

Mitsuhide: Well----- Many thanks for your kind present.

(Mitsuhide receives the box and draws back.)

Harunaga: Open the box and look.

(Mitsuhide takes off the lid and gets surprised.)

Mitsuhide: Oh, this is woman's hair against my expectation that my lord's present was a scroll!

Harunaga: Do you recognize it? Formerly you were a wanderer and were leading a secluded life in the province of Echizen.

You found it difficult to entertain a welcome guest but your kind wife raised a little money by cutting off her hair at the root and selling it. One of my retainers got the hair at that time and told me the circumstances. Then I made my retainer of your feeling pity, and later came to appoint to the owner of the two provinces ^{Osaka} ~~Mikasa~~ and Tamba. All that was my favour towards you. Nevertheless, recently you are apt to give me unnecessary advices or to talk back to me. As things are now like this, I cannot take you to the field. Better mend your ways recall your former days seeing the hair.

Mitsuhide: Oh, I recognize the hair. It reminds me of my former obscure life in the province of Echizen, when I was under the pressure of living.

(Mitsuhide put on the lid.)

I have the pleasure of receiving this.

Harunaga: I am satisfied to hear it. I have something more to speak to you, but I am tired now. Later I will send a messenger to your inn. Go back to your inn and be waiting for it.

Sono-u. Well. You seem to have got tired, sir. You had better take a rest overthere.

Harunaga: Thank you. I will have a drink in the back.
Come with me, everybody.

Sono-u: Then, our Lord!

Rammaru: Now.

All: Yes, sir.

Harunaga: Hey, Mitsuhide! Go back and wait for the messenger.

(Mitsuhide prostrates himself. Harunaga and his party exit towards the right side. Kikyo approaches Mitsuhide and puts the two sword, long and short, suggesting something. Mitsuhide orders Kikyo to go away with getsute. Kikyo exits. Mitsuhide thinks something looking at overthere, when a voice is heard to tell the lord's starting for the field. Mitsuhide takes the sword-box and is going towards the stage passage, when the clappers beaten, Mitsuhide exits overthere with music.)

----- CURTAIN -----

----- THE SECOND ACT -----

The stage indicates Mitsuhide's lodging against Mt. Atago.

The curtain rises with the sound of bell.

Mitsuhide's wife Misao, poet Joha and Mitsuhide's retainer Yasuda Sakubei are holding a poetic dialogue. Joha shows a strip of paper for poem.

Joha: Cherry flowers are falling upon running water of pond.

Sakubei: The evening wind blows as if holding back the running water. Look at this strip.

Misao: It is a balmy spring day and the cherry blossoms are at their best.

Sakubei: Though the season is calm and peaceful.

There are many war lords all over the country and every of them is in ambition of bringing the whole country under his rule.

Joha: While our lord Mitsuhide is devoted in the discharge of his duties for the Oda family's sake, Lord Harumasa does not give ears to his good advices, but follows those of that upstart Hisayoshi. As things are like this, I am afraid the Oda family will soon decline.

Misao: Don't say such a thing. You must not overestimate the influence of Hisayoshi. What do you say to it, Sakubei-dono eh?

Sakubei: Yes indeed! Our master Mitsuhide left his fief in the province of Tamba and stationed his troops at the foot of Mt. Atago. He was going to start for Chugoku with the object of attacking the forces of Mori as the successor of Hisayoshi. While it incurred Harunaga's displeasure and Master Mitsuhide was placed in confinement for some time, today he was admitted to Lord Harunaga's presence by the god offices of those close to the lord and went to the mansion. During the master's absence we are holding this poetry meeting to kill time. I am sure the master will be allowed to accompany the lord and start for Chugoku. Therefore set yourself at ease, Madame.

Misao: I think so, too, but I am anxious how about the lord's temper; I hear he is of fierce character, you see.

(Thereupon Kikyo makes her appearance.)

Kikyo: Here you are Sister?

Misao: Oh, Kikyo-dono! What is it?

Kikyo: Yes, Sister. Brother told me to hand this letter to Sakubei-dono.

(Kikyo hands the letter to Sakubei. He reads it).

Joha: I am afraid something serious might happen.

Sakubei: This letter orders us to withdraw to Yamashiro.

Misao: Then, we must make haste.

Sakubei: All right, Madame. Excuse me.

Joha: By the way, Kikyo-dono, what is our lord doing in the back?

Kikyo: Brother is reading books in his sitting room.

Joha: Is that so? On my way here today I heard that our lord had been put to shame in the presence of Harunaga. I meant it. It is really inhuman that Harunaga should insult our lord in public, while it is a well known fact that he is one of the most meritorious retainers in the Oda family. Now that Harunaga sees only the upstart Hisayoshi with a favourable view without taking the good advices of other retainers, our lord's excellent talents would be left to rust for him to continue to render service to that atrocious Harunaga. Now things have come to this, if our lord raise the standard of revolt against Harunaga, most of those war lords in the country who have grudge against the Oda family would surely support him. I hope you will persuade our lord.

Misao: I would do about anything except that.

Joha: The very hearing about the matter makes me provoking
are you not mortified?

(Misao remains silent)

Now things have come to such a pass, I must say it
directly to the lord. Plague on it!

(Joha exits)

Voice: A legate is coming.

Misao: Oh, as the lord's legate is coming, please inform
my husband of it, Kikyodono!

Kikyo: Yes, I see.

(Kikyo exits to the back. Misao receives the
legate.)

Voice: Here is, the lord's legate!

(Thereupon Asayama Taso makes his appearance with
Harunaga's letter in the pocket. Nagao Yataro
follows carrying the box of Hiyoashimaru.)

Asayama: I have come as an urgent legate of Lord Harunaga.
The name is Asayama Taso.

Nagao: Nagao Yataro is here as an attendant.

The two: Here we are.

Misao: Oh, I see. Thank you for your trouble for having
come all the way at this time of night.

Asao: Then.

The two: Excuse me.

(The two get seated, when Mitsuhide appears)

Mitsuhide: What is the lord's command?

Asayama: As you know the lord is of impatient character and I was ordered to come without a moment of delay.

Nagao: I had no time to go back to my house and immediately came here as the attendant.

Asayama: Therefore I hope you will keep the lord's command in heart.

Mitsuhide: Yes, sir.

(Thereupon the light goes out suddenly.)

Asayama: Oh, it's strange!

Nagao: The light should.

The two: Suddenly go out!

Mitsuhide: I suppose, the wind blowing down Mt. Atago put out the light all of a sudden.

Taking advantage of darkness, I will change my clothes. Say, Kikyo! Bring here the things I previously ordered.

Kikyo: (in the back room) Yes, sir.

(Kikyo appears carrying a wooden stand with a sword for harakiri on it, and put it in front of Mitsuhide. Mitsuhide takes off his overcoat and prepares to commit harakiri.)

Mitsuhide: (after getting ready) Bring a light, Misao!

Misao: Certainly, sir.

(Misao brings a candle and makes a light)

Oh my! That figure of yours, my husband!

Anayama: Oh, you have prepared to commit harakiri, before I was aware!

Kikyo: My brother had prepared for death.

Misao: What on earth is the reason?

Anayama: As might be expected from a clever general, you have admirably made up your mind before the fact. However, I hope you will know the lord's command I brought here. Formerly I gave you the provinces of Tamba and Omi appreciating your distinguished services, but this time I will revoke your fief on account of some circumstances. Instead, you may take either of the provinces Izumo or Iwami as your fief. I order the abovementioned to my retainer Takechi Mitsuhide.

Mitsuhide: Of course, I expected something like that before I received the order. That is why I made up my mind to kill myself. How could I save my honour having been confiscated my former fief? Say, my wife, I wish you will hold a mass for the repose of my soul.

Misao: Then, your disgrace was caused by my hair I cut the other day for your sake!
(weeps).

Kikyo: What a pity! I am overwhelmed with grief entering into your feelings.

Mitsuhide: It does not look well out of respect to the two persons. Now, Mr. Nago! The sword Hiyoashimaru you received from the lord had formerly belonged to Sato Michiza and I previously expressed my desire to get it, but Lord Harunaga took no notice of it. Now that I am committing harakiri, I shall be glad if you will assist it with that sword.

Nagao: With this sword I received from the lord, then?

Mitsuhide: Please take my request for the sake of fellow-feeling of samurai.

Nagao: All right. Here is the sword. (draws the sword)
This is Hiyoashimaru. You had better look at it well.

Mitsuhide: Oh, this is surely Hiyoashimaru as the point is golden! I have the satisfaction of leaving from the world now. I should like to present my last poem to Lord Harunaga. Say, Kikyo, bring here the letter-desk.

Kikyo: Certainly, sir.

(Kikyo brings the desk, an ink-case and string of paper. Misao and Kikyo seem sorry to part, but Mitsuhide urges them to leave the scene. The two exit. Mitsuhide writes his last poem upon the string of paper.)

Mitsuhide: Please give my sincere regards to Lord Harunaga.

(He shows the post. Taso sees it.)

Asayama: It is April now.

Nagao: And the time has come.

Mitsuhide: Now it is the time that rights and wrongs are
brought to light!

(Thereupon the sound of war-drum comes within
hearing.)

The two: What does the drum mean?

Mitsuhide: Now I have my day.

The two: Eh!

(Mitsuhide throws his dagger at Taso. Yataro
tries to stab at Mitsuhide, but Mitsuhide deprives
him of the sword and strike him to death.
Thereupon Mitsuhide's retainers run out in armour.)

Sakubei: Here is a report, Lord!

Mitsuhide: Oh, Sakubei! Have you got ready for the night
raid?

Sakubei: Yes, sure! Under Lord's command we are going to
surround the Honnoji temple thick and three-fold
and attack hotly at one time. They will be taken
by surprise and most of them will fall fighting.
We stand a good chance of success. You had better
start immediately, Lord!

Mitsuhide: Well said! Now I will take the field.

Sakubei: (calls towards the left side)

Lord is starting now!

(Thereupon the noise of taking the field comes within hearing.)

Mitsuhide: Come nearer, Mitsuhide!

(Sakubei steps forward. Mitsuhide holds his sword.)

Mitsuhide: Ha, ha, ha-----

(The two smile looking at each other.)

The Curtain falls with the sound of wooden clappers.